## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a data-over-cable system, a method for establishing communications between a network client device and a network device; the method comprising:

a) dividing a dynamic range of the network client device into a plurality of regions by dividing the dynamic range of a transmitter of the network client device by the dynamic range of a receiver of the network device;

b) initiating at least one initial ranging in at least one of the regions using a certain power level;

c) determining if a range response message is received from the network device;

d) adjusting the power level and reinitiating step b) and c) till a range response message is received.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network client device is a cable modem.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network device is a cable modem termination system.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the steps of the method of claim 1.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating at least one initial ranging includes sending a range request message.

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